

Katrina Response: Daily Message Points

September 6, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HOSPITALS

- **Current Number of Storm-related Fatalities: 71**
 - o This number will be updated as often as possible
- The Louisiana Hospital Association has established **an information line** and web site for patients and staff who were evacuated from New Orleans hospitals
 - o www.lhaonline.org
 - o **225-928-0026**
 - o Email at online@LHAonline.org
- DHH has established the Hurricane **Katrina Pharmacy Services Program**
 - o The program serves as a central command center for all requests on commercial donations of medical supplies and pharmaceutical drugs
 - o To make a **donation** of these supplies, call: **225-922-2032 or 866-334-9587**

LA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

- Education officials fielded approximately **500 phone calls Monday** from parents and teachers evacuated from the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina
- Additionally, the department was able to update employees, parents and students in the parishes of Plaquemines and St. Bernard by posting information on www.louisianaschools.net
- **Plaquemines Parish has a total of nine schools and six of them are under water**
 - o Belle Chase Elementary, Middle and High Schools are NOT under water
 - o Plaquemines will try to make another payroll for employees and to get our schools up and running again in one month
- **Nearly all schools in St. Bernard are or have been underwater**
 - o These schools will not, in all likelihood, be operational this school year
- Daily updated school information available online at www.louisianaschools.net
- **LDE Call Center 1-877-453-2721**

BOARD OF REGENTS

- Developing plans to provide employment training & adult learning opportunities at long-term evacuee housing locations
- Registration for electronic courses for displaced students expected to be available on or about October 10
- **Information Hotline** for displaced students & faculty open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily
 - o **1-866-415-2269**
 - o www.regents.state.la.us
- FACT: Approximately 79,000 public & private institution students displaced by Katrina
- FACT: **At least 11,500 evacuees in shelters at public colleges & universities** across the state
 - o Nearly all of our campuses statewide are involved in the emergency response effort, sheltering and caring for evacuees, housing emergency workers, providing sites for temporary living facilities, and more.

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- DEQ & EPA expand water sampling to the bowl of New Orleans and other water bodies in impacted area
 - o Has begun taking samples of water being pumped out of flooded areas of New Orleans
 - o Will compare this data with historical data of water taken at various locations in the lake
- Locating areas and issuing variances where parishes can burn hurricane-related debris
 - o Plans in place for FEMA, EPA and DEQ to conduct air monitoring in the area
 - o Naval base in Chalmette has been issued a variance & will be burning debris today
- **Oil spill near Venice** has been identified as from **Bass Enterprise**
 - o The company has a barge on the way to pump the oil out of the water and into barrels on the barge
- **Oil leak in Chalmette** has been identified as from **Murphy Oil**
 - o Murphy Oil has a crew in place to contain the leak. As workers are able to get to the facility, recovery will expand
- DEQ flyovers of the effected area show increased river activity

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Pump Stations

- A 50 cubic feet per second temporary pump is moving water from the residential area in New Orleans into Lake Pontchartrain
- The pumps at Pump Station #6 are drying out
- Once it is determined that the fix to the levee breach can withstand the pump action, the Mound station will come online, probably Tuesday

Algiers Point Ferry

- Work on the Algiers Point ferry and landing will have been completed Tuesday morning
- Ferry should be operational to move equipment, material and supplies between the east and west banks of the river to facilitate recovery efforts

DOTD met with Federal Highway Administration officials on Monday to discuss emergency federal funding procedures

Status of road openings/closings has not changed in the last 24 hours with **the exceptions of Hwy 61 and Hwy 90 going into Jefferson Parish**

DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

- There are currently **53,170** displaced citizens in 86 Louisiana shelters
- Another **804** citizens are housed in six special needs shelters
- About **78,400** Louisiana citizens are housed in 87 shelters in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia
- To minimize long waits for emergency Food Stamp Benefits, the Department of Social Services will be altering the application process, effective immediately
- DSS's Office of Family Support will continue to work around the clock processing the applications
 - o Clients will be seen from 6 a.m. to midnight
 - o This will allow the Department's computer system uninterrupted access to process the applications, and should result in faster completion for customers
 - o 55 temporary employees have been hired to assist OFS staff in the application process
 - o Department has also reassigned staff from other areas and divisions to work in the offices with heavier traffic
 - o Additional temporary staff will be hired to assist in the efforts

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- **Inmate evacuation numbers: 8,261** -- state and local inmates relocated
 - o Final total number of inmate evacuations is going to be higher once calculated, because some of those inmates have since been returned to their original facilities
- DOC received **335 federal inmates** during the evacuation process, 66 of which the Federal Bureau of Prisons has taken custody
- There are also 35 INS inmates in DOC custody
 - o Arrangements are being made to move both group of inmates to federal custody as soon as possible
 - o FBOP personnel are working closely with Corrections and providing valuable assistance to us with the inmate evacuation and relocation process
- DOC continues the process of identifying inmates from Jefferson and Orleans Parish Prison
- As of 6:00 am Tuesday, there were **124 total inmates** being held at the DOC/AG temporary holding facility in New Orleans
 - o 93 males and 31 females
 - o DOC working with LSP and NOPD at that location as well
- DOC continues to receive, inventory and redirect donated supplies from other correctional systems across the country to shelters in need
- DOC is working to provide access to mental health professional to its employees

LA DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Businesses in need of immediate assistance can reach LED through katrinabizhelp@la.gov
- Access Louisiana was launched today at: www.accesslouisiana.com with available property listings for business relocation

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **Search and Rescue operations continue in**
 - o Greater New Orleans area
 - o St. Bernard Parish
 - o Plaquemines Parish
 - o Florida parishes

- **Estimated total persons rescued to date: 20,000**
 - o Includes hospital evacuations, individuals, and small group rescues
- **Conditions within rescue areas**
 - o Federal presence, and added National Guard troops, has made most areas secure and improved speed of search and rescue effort
 - o Water levels are receding in most rescue areas making small boat rescue difficult in some areas where high ground is now limiting free access to all areas
 - o Search and rescue crews are reporting that many residents who rode out the storm – and had refused to leave early into rescue effort -- are now coming out
- **Support personnel**
 - o Added agency support from out of state has provided relief for LDWF and all associated rescue personnel involved in initial days of recovery
 - o Staging areas are now providing food and rest stations for crews working 12 to 16 hour days

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- To file unemployment & disaster unemployment assistance claims call **1-800-818-7811**
 - o Coordinated by DOL & the Texas Workforce Commission
- DOL has taken **45,000** unemployment claims in Louisiana
 - o Texas has taken 10,000 more claims from Louisiana evacuees

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Office of Risk Management

- Displaced state employees receiving workers compensation checks, please contact the Office of Risk Management at **225-219-0168** with mailing information for your benefit checks

Office of Community Development

- Working on a plan for distribution of Disaster Recovery monies from HUD to adversely affected areas

Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy

- Taking calls from displaced state employees and facilitating them in receiving their paychecks

Federal Surplus Property

- Supplied DSS with telephones, furniture and equipment for pharmacy warehouse Old Delchamps Building on Highland Road

- **Supplied 1,500 blankets** for Avoylles shelter, **supplied 400 blankets pillows and sheets** to W. Feliciana Sheriff for shelters

Office of Information Technology

- Provided mobile communication to OEP/Fema and DSS
- Katrina information on Louisiana.gov website was completed and is functional
- Information gathering phase is ongoing